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How to... Survive Meeting Your Girlfriend's Parents for the First Time

It's stressful, but these top tips can help you to get it right...

Tips

- 1 **You need to do** **some 'homework'** before you go. Ask your girlfriend about her parents. Where does her mother work? Does her father like football? Do you have any common interests? If you do this, it will be easy a conversation with them.
- 2 **Make sure you dress** the right impression. Don't wear a suit, but don't just wear your old jeans and the Che Guevara T-shirt you bought in the market.
- 3 **Be punctual.** It's very important late at a first meeting.
- 4 **When they greet you at the door** shake the father's hand firmly (no father likes a weak handshake!). Ask your girlfriend what kind of greeting her mum will prefer.
- 5 **Call her parents Mr and Mrs** (Smith) until they ask you to call them 'Dave' and 'Sharon'.
- 6 **Be ready** questions about yourself! Her parents will want everything about you and your ambitions. Make a good impression!
- 7 **If you are invited for a meal,** eat everything they give you and say something positive about the meal, like 'This is absolutely delicious!'. Offer the washing-up after the meal (them that you are a 'new man').
- 8 **Be yourself,** and don't be a 'yes' man. If they ask you for your opinion, be honest. However, try about controversial subjects – this isn't the moment to give your views on religion and politics!
- 9 **If the conversation is dying** and you can't think what ask them what your partner was like as a child. This is a brilliant tactic! All parents love talking about their children and it shows you have a deep interest in their daughter.